#3



PATENT ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5574

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	
Manabu AKAMATSU et al.) Confirmation No.: 4700
Application No.: 09/659,566) Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: September 11, 2000 ·) Examiner: Unassigned
For: IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND	RECEIVED
METHOD, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS) MAR 1 0 2003
Commissioner for Patents	Technology Center 2600
Washington, D.C. 20231	

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper.

The listed document was cited in an European Search Report dated January 27, 2003 in a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached hereto.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5574 Application No.: 09/659,566

Page 2

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists

and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "Prior

Art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "Prior Art" under

United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law

regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability

of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the

claims of the present application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby

authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this

application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required,

including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-

0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF

TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By:

Robert J. Goodell

Reg. No. 41,040

Dated: March 6, 2003

•

Customer No. 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

202-739-3000